

**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

June 7, 2005

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

As requested by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2, the International Joint Commission (Commission) has completed its review of the Stage 3 Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Oswego River Area of Concern (AOC) in accordance with its role under the 1987 Protocol to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. This RAP process is notable because it is the first U.S. effort to reach this stage of environmental restoration.

The Commission determined that to the extent that the RAP can have influence over local conditions, beneficial uses in the Oswego River AOC have been restored to the maximum extent practicable, and the Oswego River should no longer be considered an AOC. Attached is a copy of the Commission's letter of comment to the U.S. EPA Region 2 advising that it should proceed with the delisting process.

Federal, state, and local governments are to be commended for their achievements. The Commission welcomed the opportunity to review the Stage 3 RAP and anticipates the successful delisting of the Oswego River AOC. Consistent with its current policy, the Commission intends to release these comments to the public.

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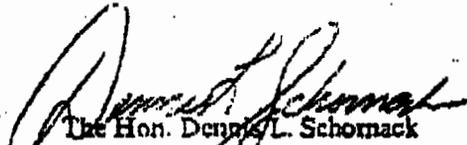
250 25<sup>th</sup> STREET NW, SUITE 100  
WASHINGTON DC 20440  
PHONE: 202.728.9000  
FAX: 202.467.0746

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE  
100 OUELLETTE AVE., 5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
WINNIPEG, ON N3A 6T3

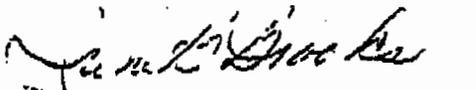
234 LAURIER AVENUE WEST, 22<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR  
OTTAWA, ON K1P 6K6  
PHONE: 613.993.2584  
FAX: 613.993.2583

A similar letter is being sent to the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs. Should you have any questions or if you require further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

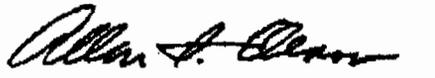
Yours sincerely,

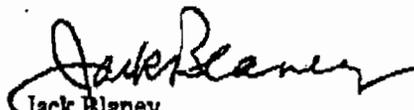
  
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Chair, United States Section

  
The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray, P.C., C.C., Q.C.  
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